

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-referenced application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A network enabled online transaction risk management system, comprising:

at least one financial services server for processing a financial transaction request received over said network for at least one customer account, wherein customer preferences for said at least one customer account are remotely configurable over said network;

at least one client in processing communications with said at least one financial services server over said network, wherein the at least one client includes a section for remote configuration of said at least one customer account using the customer preferences;

at least one point of sales terminal in processing communications with said at least one financial services server, wherein the at least one point of sales terminal includes a section for performing said financial transaction with said financial services server;

a notification section that sends a notification to the at least one customer if a characteristic of the financial transaction exceeds a first preference of the customer preferences and does not exceed a second preference of the customer preferences; and

an authorization section that sends an authorization request to said at least one customer if the characteristic of said financial transaction exceeds [[a]] the second preference of said customer preferences and the authorization section determines whether the financial transaction is a transaction that is suitable to continue for authorization, wherein if the characteristic of the financial transaction exceeds the first preference and does not exceed said second preference, the notification is sent and the financial transaction is processed, and wherein if the characteristic of the financial transaction exceeds the second preference and is determined to be suitable to

continue for authorization, the authorization request is sent and the financial transaction is not completed unless a response to the authorization request is received.

Claims 2 - 3 (Cancelled).

4. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said first preference of the customer preferences includes a transaction limit.

5. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 4, wherein said second preference of the customer preferences includes an authorization limit.

6. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

an account suspension section that suspends the at least one customer account if the characteristic of the financial transaction exceeds a third preference of the customer preferences, wherein said third preference of the customer preferences includes an account suspension limit, and wherein exceeding the third preference causes the authorization section to determine that the financial transaction is not suitable to continue for authorization.

7. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 6, wherein said customer preferences include single transactions.

8. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 7, wherein said customer preferences include cumulative transactions.

9. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said customer preferences include an applicable time period.

10. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein said at least one financial services server authenticates said at least one customer before allowing said at least one customer access to said at least one customer account.

11. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein said communications is performed using a secure messaging protocol.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein said network includes the Internet.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein said network includes a public telephone service network.

14. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein said network includes a cellular telephone network.

15. (Original) The system according to claim 1 wherein said network includes a cable television network.

16. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1 wherein said notification section includes a cellular telephone.

17. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1 wherein said notification section includes a pager.

18. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1 wherein said notification section includes a regular telephone.

19. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1 wherein said notification section includes electronic mail.

20. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1 wherein said notification section includes a personal data assistant.

21. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1 wherein said notification section includes a television equipped with a set top box.

22. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a comparator section that compares characteristics of financial transactions received from said at least one point of sales terminal to said customer preferences.

Claims 23 - 25 (Cancelled).

26. (Currently amended) A method for reducing financial transaction risk, comprising:

establishing networking communications between a client and a financial services server by at least one customer, wherein said financial services server is in processing communications with at least one point of sale terminal;

accessing an account on said financial services server owned by said at least one customer;

entering customer preferences, wherein the customer preferences are remotely configurable over a network;

comparing a characteristic of a financial transaction received from said at least one point of sales terminal to said customer preferences;

sending a notification to said at least one customer if said financial transaction characteristic exceeds a first preference of said customer preferences and does not exceed a second preference of the customer preferences; and

sending an authorization request requesting authorization of said at least one customer if said financial transaction characteristic exceeds ~~[[a]]~~ the second preference of said customer preferences and is determined to be a transaction that is suitable to continue for authorization, wherein if the characteristic of the financial transaction exceeds the first preference and does not exceed said second preference, the notification is sent and the financial transaction is processed, and wherein if the characteristic of the financial transaction exceeds the second preference and is determined to be suitable to continue for authorization, the authorization request is sent and the financial transaction is not completed unless a response to the authorization request is received.

27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26, further comprising:
 authenticating said customer to said financial services server.
28. (Original) The method according to claim 26 wherein said networking communications includes using the Internet.
29. (Original) The method according to claim 26 wherein said networking communications includes using a public telephone service network.
30. (Original) The method according to claim 26 wherein said networking communications includes using a cellular telephone network.
31. (Original) The method according to claim 26 wherein said networking communications includes using a cable television network.
32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein said first preference of the customer preferences includes a transaction limit.
33. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein said second preference of the customer preferences includes an authorization limit.

34. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 26, further comprising:

suspending the account of the at least one customer if the financial transaction characteristic exceeds a third preference of said customer preferences, wherein said third preference of the customer preferences includes an account suspension limit, and wherein exceeding the third preference causes a determination that that the financial transaction is not suitable to continue for authorization.

35. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein said customer preferences include single transactions.

36. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein said customer preferences include cumulative transactions.

37. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein said customer preferences include an applicable time period.

38. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26 wherein said notification is performed through a cellular telephone.

39. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26 wherein said notification is performed through a pager.

40. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26 wherein said notification is performed through a regular telephone.

41. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26 wherein said notification is performed through electronic mail.

42. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26 wherein said notification is performed through a personal data assistant.

43. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26 wherein said notification is performed through a television equipped with a set top box.

44. (Currently amended) A non-transitory computer readable medium storing software for reducing financial transaction risk, the software comprising:

executable code that establishes networking communications for at least one customer between a client and a financial services server, wherein the financial services server is in processing communications with at least one point of sale terminal;

executable code that accesses an account on the financial services server owned by the at least one customer;

executable code that enters customer preferences, wherein the customer preferences are remotely configurable over a network;

executable code that compares a characteristic of a financial transaction received from the at least one point of sales terminal to the customer preferences;

executable code that sends a notification to the at least one customer if the financial transaction characteristic exceeds a first preference of the customer preferences and does not exceed a second preference of the customer preferences; and

executable code that sends an authorization request requesting authorization of the at least one customer if the financial transaction characteristic exceeds ~~[[a]]~~ the second preference of the customer preferences and is determined to be a transaction that is suitable to continue for authorization, wherein if the characteristic of the financial transaction exceeds the first preference and does not exceed said second preference, the notification is sent and the financial transaction is processed, and wherein if the characteristic of the financial transaction exceeds the second preference and is determined to be suitable to continue for authorization, the authorization request is sent and the financial transaction is not completed unless a response to the authorization request is received.

45. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer readable medium according to claim 44, wherein the first preference of the customer preferences includes a transaction limit, and wherein the second preference of the customer preferences includes an authorization limit.

46. (Currently amended) The non-transitory computer readable medium according to claim 44, further comprising:

executable code that suspends the account of the at least one customer if the financial transaction characteristic exceeds a third preference of the customer preferences, wherein the third preference of the customer preferences includes an account suspension limit, and wherein exceeding the third preference causes a determination that the financial transaction is not suitable to continue for authorization.

47. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer readable medium according to claim 44, wherein the customer preferences include single transactions.

48. (Previously presented) The non-transitory computer readable medium according to claim 44, wherein the customer preferences include cumulative transactions.